



*United States Attorney
Southern District of New York*

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CONTACT: U.S. ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
HERBERT HADAD, MEGAN GAFFNEY
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE
(212) 637-2600

**ALLEGED INTERNATIONAL ECSTASY DEALER
ORDERED EXTRADITED TO THE UNITED STATES**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced today that Spanish authorities have approved the extradition of HENK ROMMY, a/k/a "Henk Orlando Rommy," a/k/a "Charles Gordon," a/k/a "Cobra," a/k/a "Black Cobra," from Spain to the United States to face charges of conspiracy to import Methylenedioxymethamphetamine, more commonly known as "MDMA" or "Ecstasy," into the United States.

According to the charges, in the year 2000, ROMMY, a citizen of Holland, and others, planned to smuggle up to 1 million Ecstasy pills to New York. In or about October 2000, ROMMY was arrested in the Netherlands and charged with possession of piperonyl methylketone ("PMK") - a precursor chemical necessary to manufacture MDMA. After several months in custody on that charge, in or about September 2001, ROMMY allegedly discussed with others a plan to send 40 to 50 kilograms of MDMA in powder form (as opposed to pill form) to the United States.

In March 2003, ROMMY traveled to Bermuda and met with an undercover Drug Enforcement Administration ("DEA") agent to discuss smuggling MDMA into the United States, it was charged. The meeting lasted for over an hour and was recorded on audiotape and videotape. During the meeting, among other things, ROMMY discussed, in substance, his plans to smuggle MDMA into the United States, according to the charges.

On November 12, 2003, ROMMY was provisionally arrested in Spain, and was detained pending extradition proceedings. On December 9, 2003, a federal grand jury, sitting in the Southern District of New York, returned an Indictment charging ROMMY with conspiracy to import MDMA into the United States and distribute MDMA, knowing and intending that such substance would be unlawfully imported into the United States or into waters within a distance of 12 miles of the coast of the United States.

The indictment also seeks to forfeit from the defendant any and all illegal proceeds he derived from, and any property used to facilitate, the alleged illegal importation activities.

If convicted, ROMMY faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 20 years.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the DEA's New York Field Division, which conducted the investigation, as well as the Bermuda Police Service, and the Spanish National Police for their

invaluable assistance in the investigation and extradition of ROMMY.

Assistant United States Attorney MARC MUKASEY is in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Indictment are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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